

This paper has been paid for, if not by you, then by some one who wants you to read it.

No. 214 If No. 215 appears on your address label, your subscription expires next week. Do not fail to renew.

AMERICAN SOCIALIST

Have You Entered Our Great Rand School Scholarship Contest?

VOL. III. No. 22.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1916

50c per year; \$1 per year outside United States; 25c for 40 weeks in Clubs of 4 or more except in Chicago

Press And Politicians Combine To Silence Experts' Remedy For High Cost Of Food

Plan To Eliminate Profit Grabbers By Use Of Parcel Posts System Is Ignored Now That Election Day Is Over

By LUCIEN SAINT.

WASHINGTON.—Half-hearted attempts to reduce the high cost of living by developing the parcel post are about to be made by the Government. Of course they won't strike at the root of the evil, but they will make a loud noise and the people will fall for it. Here's the story:

The rates on parcel post are too high. They are high because of the influence of the privately owned express companies. They are so high that sometimes it is cheaper to use the express companies and sometimes it is cheaper not to send any stuff at all. Especially is this due of foods and foodstuffs.

The poor people are dependent for their eggs and vegetables on the retail dealers. The retail dealers buy from the wholesalers and the wholesalers from the farmers. A profit must be grabbed off every time. When the food finally arrives at the house, it is old, dirty and costly.

Food Fresh Every Day.

Government experts have worked out a scheme whereby foods may be purchased direct from the producer and shipped direct to the consumer by parcel post. The middlemen are eliminated. The producer gets a profit for his labor, and that's an end to it. The consumer gets stuff delivered by the postman fresh every day.

This scheme has been advertised a little. It works—well. But up to date, and note that the date is after election, the government experts have been bidden to hold their tongues. The middleman is a powerful cuss. He controls the daily newspapers by advertising his goods in them. He stands in with the railroads and the public service corporations. He has such a large financial stake in the world and he is so numerous that it is well not to offend him before election.

Make Radical Suggestions

The Government experts have made radical recommendations. They want the Government to lower rates to a cent a pound, to drive the express companies out of existence, and to start a campaign of education and agitation which will benefit nobody but the people, and the farmers. The Government experts know that the Government can make money out of parcel post at fabulously lower rates than are being charged today. They know that the legal power exists to remove the 50-pound weight limit from the parcel post and let the Government carry anything and everything that has to be carried—vegetables, lumber, coal, etc. They have worked out the cost of carrying goods per mile, and they can see the enormous profit made by the railroads, the express companies, and the grafters who handle supplies of all kinds. They declare—PRIVATELY—that government ownership of the express companies, which means an extension of the parcel post system, is the first effective step toward cutting the cost of living and government ownership of the railroads.

So much for the experts. They

talk common sense. Will the politicians let them DO common sense things?

This is a rough outline of the struggle now going on in the Post Office Department. On the one side are those who see the truth and want to serve the public. On the other side are the cautious bureaucrats who see the truth also, but who do not want to "harm any legislative business"—which is another way of saying that they do not want to do anything that will eat into profits.

Something Can Be Done.

A prominent Socialist who holds a small government job in Washington and who is in a position to know what he is talking about, has put forth this idea:

"Let the city Socialist locals throughout the country resolve themselves into clubs for the reduction of the cost of living. Let them write to the Postmaster General for full information as to how to buy through the parcel post. Let them supply their families with good food at less than the cost of the same in the stores—and let them use the experience thus gained as a text for their next soapbox meetings. I personally have talked convincing Socialism with a paper cartoon of parcel posted eggs in my hand as an illustration of the need for government ownership and control of private exploitation of the people's foods."

Here They Are!

Incorporation into one organization—the National Industrial Conference Board—of the foremost opponents of organized labor is expected by the labor delegates in the American Federation of Labor convention at Baltimore to bring about the greatest conflict of history between capital and the working men. These are among the employers' associations represented in the new "board":

National Association of Manufacturers.
National Council of Industrial Defense.
National Founders' Association.
National Metal Trades Association.
National Erectors' Association.
National Association of Cotton Manufacturers.
American Cotton Manufacturers' Association.
National Association of Wool Manufacturers.
Silk Association of America.
United Typothetae.
American Pulp and Paper Association.
Rubber Club of America.
AND (by co-operation)
All the great railroads of America.
These organizations (exclusive of the railroads) are said to represent a working capital of EIGHT BILLION DOLLARS and to hold the threat of jobs or joblessness over SIX MILLION WORKERS!

A. J. E.

/Read "Let the Plutes Rule!" column. A new feature of The American Socialist beginning with this issue.

HOW DOES THIS SUIT YOU!

"When we asked the captain of one of the National Guard regiments (in West Virginia) if he felt they had the power to put to death a striking mine worker, if they wanted to, he said they had. 'We had the power to

do so,' he said. When we asked him, WHERE WAS THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, he calmly replied that it was suspended during the time of the operation of martial law."—Senator Borah, discussing the National Guard features of the army bill.



Yes, They Are Doing Their Christmas Shopping Early!

PLUTE ORGANS PLEASE COPY.

WASHINGTON.—Over ten thousand dollars worth of property was saved to its owners last year by the U. S. Coast Guard Service, which is one of Uncle Sam's government-owned steamship lines. Incidentally, over 100 lives were saved each month of the year. The total cost to the country was a little over \$5,000,000.

Is Government ownership feasible? Is it effective? Does it pay? Is it destructive of initiative and enterprise?

Write to the Treasury Department for Document 2771, and read about this amazing service which is performed for the shipping of the United States at relatively small cost. It is a living argument for government ownership, for private capital would

not and could not perform the same duties for any reasonable sum of money.

Incidentally the Coast Guard owns and operates its own telephone system of wires and cables. Owing, however, to the failure of capitalistic Congress to maintain this equipment, it is in a bad way.

Incidentally, also, the daily ration for workers in the Coast Guard costs 47 and a fraction cents. This is because the Government has ousted the private exploiter of foodstuffs.

"Municipal Ownership" and other Wall Street organs, please copy.

From the Wall Street Tattler.

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM

By WILLIS ANDREWS.

The upper classes will find cause for good cheer and optimism in this issue of the Tattler. Grave fears for the stability of our social and political institutions have needlessly gained ground in some quarters. But the Tattler reassures its readers that reports of discontent among the lower classes have been greatly exaggerated. It is well to remember there have been agitators in all ages of the world who have made bold to question the right of the leisure class to rule over the poor and lowly. But despite the clamor of demagogues, plutocracy still holds the master hand in its supremacy over the inferior orders of society.

In our day men known as socialists have made ineffectual attempts to win the support of the laboring classes; little heed has ever been paid to their propaganda. These highbrow doctrinaires make the mistake of considering workers other than creatures fit only to serve. As in times past, they were obedient as born thralls of Eric the Saxon, so today toilers are quite content as wage slaves, as they are sometimes facetiously described. What folly to appeal to the reason or intellect of proletarians, faculties to which they seem almost strangers?

Of the present juncture there is considerable idle talk about imminent strikes and industrial disturbances. In labor conventions all sorts of wild threats are being made as to what labor is going to do to capital. All this, mind you, just a week after the laboring classes voted overwhelmingly to place the powers of government unreservedly into our hands—police, marshals, militia and the regular army. With all these forces at our command, what a sorry figure any body of men would cut in opposing our interests!

It is to laugh—how! haw! haw!

The Abingdon, Ill., Socialist Exchange has made its appearance, under the able management of Comrade R. S. Snider and his daughter. The exchange is buying its goods from the Chicago Socialist Wholesale.

WASHINGTON WILL DO NOTHING TO HURT BIG BIZ

WASHINGTON.—"No general legislation this winter!" This is the word that is being passed around among the politicians of the two old parties. The interests are tired out trying to sit on dangerous legislative proposals, and they want a rest.

The administration wants a rest. It wants to sleep while its commissions make investigations and recommendations. It has passed an enormous quantity of laws during the last four years, and it thinks that it deserves a vacation.

The courts will rule the country in the meantime. The only at all popular section of Government, which is Congress, will go back home, draw its pay, and do nothing. "We" are prosperous. "We" have all the laws we want. Why worry?

This is the inside dope on the program for the next few months. It is all fixed and arranged, except the details, and unless some sudden emergency should arise, like a social revolution, it will be strictly adhered to.

Speaking of revolutions and the high cost of living and capitalism, far-sighted men in official life in the Nation's Capital confess privately to the belief that revolution is impending in the United States. They know the facts and they know that the uneasy social structure can not stand as it is much longer. This explains why Wilson has appointed so many "radicals" to office. He, too, sees the end of the capitalistic system, and instead of opposing it blindly, he is endeavoring to soften the finish crash.

No more legislation for nearly a year! Is that the way to make the country prosperous?

Surely the European masses are a patriot lot of beasts of burden. Millions being killed; more millions wounded and still more millions starve and suffer. Nevertheless the enormous salaries of the chief rulers continue to flow into their coffers. Czar Nicholas has annual incomes totaling \$12,000,000, Kaiser Wilhelm over \$5,000,000, the Austrian Emperor \$4,320,000, the British King and Queen \$2,350,000, and the other members of that royal family a total of \$2,790,000. Add millions upon millions more for the dukes and earls and counts and other no-accounts, and the contrast between the classes and the masses becomes positively disgusting. Why should any sane human being worship royal vampires?

WRITE.—Short contributions for "Let the Plutes Rule!" column of The American Socialist will be welcomed for publication. To get an idea of what is wanted you should read it. It begins in this issue.

Uncle Sam Declares Capitalism Bankrupt

The question is not—"HOW MUCH DO YOU EARN?" but "WHAT DO YOU SAVE?"

Young man, working steadily each day, each week, each month: Can you add \$10 every 30 days to a fund for your mother or father; your sisters or yourself?—\$10 monthly in the strongest and safest bank in the world, bringing in 4 per cent interest and practically invested in government bonds, safe, sure and earning money always?

Are those you would wish to leave cared for in the event of your death given six months of your pay as insurance?

Can you travel at the expense of someone else and be educated by that travel and still SAVE!

Have you time during your working hours to study, to improve, to advance?

Are you breaking down your health by confinement in some office or shop or factory with the possibility that if taken sick you lose your position and with it your pay?

If sick, is your medicine given you free? Is a doctor paid to tend you? Do you have a trained nurse supplied by your present employer?

If crippled doing duty, are you pensioned and cared for—FOR LIFE?

If your best years have been spent giving your efforts to another—will he care for you and yours in your declining years?

Are your clothes supplied free—Is your board and lodging, furnished with your pay, or do you have the unending struggle month after month to try to meet your bills?

You ask:—"Where is this all done, where board, lodging, clothes and medical attendance are given in addition to pay, where promotion may be had for the ambitious and deserving, and in fact, where every question asked above may be answered for your betterment, if you are not already getting these necessities with your pay?"

"Where you may lead an open air life with full physical training."

"Where you may circle the globe or tour the wide world with travel expenses paid and with your pay going on just the same and where the same pay may be put under the protection of the United States Government."

"Where a man may advance from the lowest rung of the ladder to the highest."

"Where education may be had from free books in free school rooms, by competent teachers, also free, in subjects from reading and writing to wireless telegraphy, electricity, aviation and mechanics—and the time so taken in study and betterment—'daylight time'—for which you are being paid by your employer, where the knowledge may be had that with added education comes 'ADDED PAY.'"

The answer to all the above and more, young man, is:—"THE UNITED STATES ARMY."

Come to the addresses given below and have it proved to you that the poorest paid soldier in the Army today can save \$10 of his pay every month.

How his food is improved under the new ration order—how his clothing is the best of any soldier on earth—how he may be educated and how he has advanced from the "ranks" to head of the Army—how the pay has increased and of the numberless other benefits of which you and other civilians DO NOT KNOW.

COME! and let us explain to you.—If you are working—COME after hours, as these offices are open DAY and NIGHT—never closed.—From U. S. Army Circular.

ARE YOU A SOCIALIST? Then read "Let the Plutes Rule!" column in this issue of The American Socialist and you will see what you voted against.

"Let the Plutes Rule!" versus "Let the People Rule!" is being discussed in a new department of The American Socialist which begins with this issue. Read it.

Unless You Act You Will Lose Out

on this opportunity to take advantage of our special offer to those who will renew their subscriptions to The American Socialist by the 25th of December. Your subscription possibly expires with this issue!

Here is a list of books—valuable books—the kind that you will be proud to have in your book case. For 50 cents we will send you any one of these books prepaid and The American Socialist for six months. For \$1 we will send you any two books in this list prepaid and a year's subscription to The American Socialist. In other words:

For 50c you get one book and the paper for six months.

For \$1.00 you get two books and the Paper for one year. The value of these books alone is 50c per copy plus postage. They are printed on good paper, well bound in durable cloth covers. Don't miss this opportunity.

The two authors are:

Edward Bellamy
Jack London

Here are the titles:

By Edward Bellamy
LOOKING BACKWARD.
By Jack London

ADVENTURE
TALES OF THE WILD
TALES OF THE FISH PATROL
BEFORE ADAM
BURNING DAYLIGHT
CHILDREN OF THE FROST
CRUISE OF THE SNARK
IRON HEEL
LOST FACE
LOVE OF LIFE

WAR OF THE CLASSES
WHEN GOD LAUGHS
WHITE FANG
MARTIN EDEN
MOON FACE
SEA WOLF
SOUTH SEA TALES
THE FAITH OF MEN
THE GAME
THE HOUSE OF PRIDE

FILL OUT THIS COUPON TODAY AND MAIL IT.

The American Socialist,
803 W. Madison St.,
Chicago, Ill.

For the enclosed \$..... please send me copy (copies) of and place my name on The American Socialist subscription list for

Name

Address

City State

AMERICAN SOCIALIST

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of the United States.

J. L. ENGBAHL, Editor

Entered as second-class matter, July 21, 1914, at the post-office at Chicago, Ill., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Published every Saturday by the Socialist Party National Office, 803 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

BUNDLE RATES.—Bundle Rates One Year to one Address: 4 copies, \$1; 8 copies, \$2; 10 copies, \$2.50; 25 copies, \$6.25; 50 copies, \$12.50; 100 copies, \$25.00. Bundle Rates of Any Issue: 1,000, \$5; 500, \$2.50; 200, \$1.00; 100, 50 cents.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1916.

Never mind. Nineteen twenty is our year.

It is the hen that is entitled to do the crowing this year.

Wonder if Wilson will favor woman suffrage now?

Every plan for reducing the high cost of living is a Socialist plan.

The east and south will have to give women the ballot in order to prevent the west dominating things.

The war made Wilson "prosperity." When the war ends, then will come the Wilson panic.

Things are so high now that no one will have anything when the crash comes. And then will come the deluge.

"Socialism remains the one hope of the world, the one star in the night that covers us."

The people clearly do not want to be free. They demand more prodding before they will rebel.

It is incumbent on every true Socialist to stand by his colors now. And he will.

There is nothing to do but go on. The world advances only as the vanguard does move on.

Who will be the man to fool the American people after Wilson has gone as far as he can?

The suggestion of an embargo on food stuffs is a Socialist suggestion. But it comes too late to do much good.

Hughes will not be long without a job. The corporations can use any old federal judge.

Wonder if, after four more years of Woodrow, they can declare, "He kept us out of war."

It might have been worse. Socialists might have gone to war instead of merely going insane in voting for Wilson.

Now that election is over, they are seeking to annul the eight hour law passed by congress. Sure thing. Who expected anything else?

The harder upholder of the present system struggle, the deeper do they get stuck in its mire. They will yet call on Socialism to get them out.

How about the railroads defying congress when they appeal to their own bought-and-paid-for judges to set aside the eight hour law?

Hughes congratulates Wilson, after abusing him. Shows how the desire for office must give place to acquiescence when Wall street is satisfied with results.

If England and France do cancel their munition orders, the panic may reach America before the winter is over, and prices may tumble in the general ruin that follows.

When the war does come because of the food action of the preparedness advocates, America will be less prepared than she should have been had she done right and refused to spend a dollar with the profit mongers.

Just as Socialists said it would be, whoever was elected, the masters are entrenched in America for four years more. At the end of that time there will be but little left to steal, and then will come—what?

Now that the country has been so emptied of food that everything has risen to the stars, they talk of a food embargo. Had they adopted Benson's suggestion two years ago there never need to have been a food shortage in America.

If Socialists of America could be stampeded into voting for Wilson could they not also be stampeded into war if Rooseveltitis became epidemic? What has the exploiter to fear now?

SOCIALIST VOTE BY STATES.

South Dakota gave 3,731 votes for Benson? Socialist candidate for president, this year as compared to 4,662 for Debs in 1912, loss of 931, according to report just received from State Secretary E. F. Atwood. "In the Black Hills district labor troubles reduced our vote thru emigration," he says. "Prohibition apparently carried by 8,000, while equal suffrage was defeated by perhaps 1,000. On the latter issue it is charged that the anti-saloon element quietly worked against votes for women because the suffragists would not also work for prohibition."

"The party organization is larger and more efficient than ever before and plans to send a few 'immediate demands' to referendum this winter, also to handle a lyceum course."

The Socialist vote in North Carolina this year is reported as 490 as compared to 1,025 in 1912, a loss of 535. State Secretary W. F. Metcalf of New Mexico reports that the vote cast for the highest Socialist elector in that state was 1,397 as compared with the vote of 2,859 cast for Debs in 1912, a loss of 862.

State Secretary Martin F. Plunkett reports the Connecticut vote as follows: for President, Allan L. Benson, 4,595, as compared to 10,056 cast for Debs in 1912, a loss of 5,461. The vote for governor was 4,870.

LET THE PLUTES RULE!

NOTE.—Under this heading will be published each week brief accounts of how the people are being done by the financial, commercial and industrial magnates. News from Wall street generally not intended for the knowledge of the masses will also be given.

By MAX SHEROVER

In Explanation.

Leslie's Weekly, a highly reactionary publication, for years has been conducting an editorial column devoted to an attempted demonstration that the people are not fit to rule—at least, not fit to rule as capitalism would like to have things ruled. This column, in a sarcastic sneer, exclaims every now and then "Let the Plute Rule!" Leslie's Weekly wants the plutes to rule. We will therefore "blessings" the people enjoy from Plute rule. If the people are satisfied with these "blessings" of Plute rule why then it is their privilege to continue to vote for Plute-rule against People's rule.

The Why of Aeroplane Prices and Submarine Wages.

Washington—Government reports on partial exports for October and ten months ending with October are: Breadstuffs, \$38,180,775; cottonseed oil, \$1,153,928; cattle, hogs and sheep, \$60,867; meat and dairy products, \$24,711,449; cotton, \$68,986,160; mineral oils, \$16,154,189.

Ten months ending with October: Breadstuffs, \$358,421,947; cottonseed oil, \$16,066,241; cattle, hogs and sheep, \$775,180; meat and dairy products, \$220,159,498; cotton, \$493,083,349; mineral oils, \$169,893,521.

Whadya Mean National Joke?

Runaway commodity prices, and runaway prices for industrial stocks to correspond with the big profits expected to result from the imperative demand for goods, have been the feature of the past month. The situation is being brought forcibly home to every household, until the H. C. of L. has become a national joke.—The Magazine of Wall Street.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

If ten stores can distribute goods more economically than one, and two hundred can serve the public better than ten, it is logical to expect that a thousand under a single management would be still more efficient, and the trend of development seems to be in this direction.—Theo. H. Price in THE OUTLOOK.

Alfred P. Thom, counsel for the American railway executive advisory committee, last week told the Newlands congressional committee investigating the subject of transportation that "government ownership of railroads is inevitable," and that a number of railroads would be willing to sell out to the government.

Why You Should Be Contrary.

The Merchants' Association of New York City has adopted a resolution in regard to Government ownership of railroads and other public utilities. The resolution is as follows:

"Resolved by the Merchants' Association of New York that governmental methods in the conduct of business affairs are inherently defective, by reason of the fundamental restrictions imposed by our form of government; and that governmental methods are often inefficient and wasteful, and therefore unsuited to the conduct of business undertakings; and be it further

"Resolved that The Merchants' Association of New York is opposed to Government ownership and operation of railroads, telephones, telegraphs and other public utilities, believing that such utilities are far more effectively operated under private ownership, subject to public regulation, than would be possible under Government ownership and operation; and that it would be a national calamity to subject these instruments, indispensable to the welfare of the whole country, to the hampering, inefficient and wasteful methods inseparable from Government undertakings."

THE POOR RAILROADS!

Ann Arbor's noodle shows an increase of \$199,303 over last year.

Atlantic Coast Line shows net gainings of \$1,601,398. This almost doubles the plunder of the preceding year.

Atlantic, Gulf & West Indies is expected to "earn" \$50 per share and a minimum of \$200,000 per month.

Aurora, Elgin & Chicago during September knocked down \$83,755, all of which is "velvet."

Bangor & Aroostook in three months pulled net \$339,170.

Burlington plucked a paltry \$4,341,174 during September. (To be continued.)

The Value of An Empty purse.

The Chicago Sunday Evening Club, which holds religious services in Orchestra Hall on Sundays, is "organized to maintain a service of Christian Inspiration and Fellowship in the business center of Chicago and to promote the moral and religious welfare of the city." The attendance, which usually exceeds the capacity of the large hall, is largely composed of clerks, office workers and a sprinkling of mechanics and manual laborers.

There are twenty-eight boxes that are sold for the season. Among the holders of these boxes are such empty-purse concerns as:

Carson Pirie & Co.
National City Bank
State Bank of Chicago
Butler Brothers
J. O'Brien Armour
Continental & Commercial National Bank
R. T. Crane, Jr.
Reid, Murdoch & Company
Quaker Oats Co.
Cyrus H. McCormick
Sears Roebuck & Co.
Swift & Company
Northern Trust Co.
Corn Exchange Bank
Central Trust Co.
Merchants Loan & Trust Co.

Dean Charles R. Brown, of Yale School of Religion, was imported last Sunday to speak to the crowd on "The Value of An Empty Purse." It was not stated whether Prof. Brown was given an empty purse for his lecture, and judging from the way his sermon was received the Dubbs seemed content with their empty purses.

E. J. Buffington, of the Illinois Steel Company, had a hard hour's try in which he tried to demonstrate that when Jesus compared the rich man's chances of getting into the Heaven with the chances of a camel going through the eye of a needle, he did not mean the modern business man, the "self-made" millionaire, the "honest" mill owner. After a half hour Buffington gave up the job and postponed it for the following Sunday.

The Steel Trust is cleaning up at the rate of \$1,000,000.00 per day net profit. Let the Plutes Rule!

A handful of Copper Magnates and old maids in Boston are raking in one million dollar per week from the Utah copper fields, and the money they get from their Michigan holdings would stump a mathematician. Let the Plutes Rule!

A Chicago egg speculator has admitted holding 1,000,000 eggs in storage in order to manipulate the price. When informed of the people's protest he calmly replied "What are you going to do about it? I have the eggs, you want them, you pay my price or go without them!" Let the Plutes Rule!

The Fruits of Agitation.

Following Representative Meyer London's lead in declaring in favor of an embargo on food exportation are Representatives Fitzgerald, of New York, and Jeff McLeome, of Texas. Enough Congressmen are expected to jump into the band wagon to make possible the passage of an embargo law.

UNTIL NEXT WEEK "LET THE PLUTES RULE!"

IN THE WORLD OF LABOR.

By Max S. Hayes.

ONE RESULT of the strike agitation of the railway brotherhoods, the passage of the Adamson act and the subsequent nationwide discussion of the whole subject has been to liberalize the transportation employees' organizations to an extent that may ultimately wear them away from their aristocratic or exclusive policies. This week there was held in Washington a preliminary conference between representatives of the brotherhoods and the federated shop employees with a view to arranging a working alliance for offensive and defensive purposes. The men in the transportation department have learned during the past few years that, while their policy of splendid isolation formulated more than a quarter of a century ago may have been advantageous before the railways were centralized into a few powerful groups, in these latter days this method has become expensive and unsatisfactory. The scheme of steering clear from "entangling alliances" to avoid sympathetic strikes principally and depending almost wholly on mediation and arbitration to improve their conditions, has brought the conviction to the general managers of the railways that the brotherhoods fear to resort to extreme measures to enforce their demands. Consequently the railway magnates have consistently and loftily waved aside the railway employees when wage scales were presented and grudgingly conceded arbitration only after extensive delays. The men on the Western lines nearly two years ago, which ended in almost a complete fiasco, and the seemingly endless negotiations that preceded the enactment of the Adamson law, illustrate the methods adopted by the general managers and also show the tremendous expense of time and money to which the brotherhoods were subjected in adhering to their isolation and peace-at-any-price policy. It is not generally known but nevertheless a fact that for two years before the Western arbitration proceedings culminated in Chicago the brotherhoods employed a corps of expert investigators and statisticians to compile the necessary data to present to the arbitration court in the hope of winning their case. The outlay for that one item alone approximated \$750,000, and the total expense of the arbitration must have exceeded a million dollars. The cost of the conciliation proceedings in the eight-hour campaign was undoubtedly much greater, although no information is available at present upon which to base a fair estimate. On the other hand, the expenses of the score of more crafts employed in railroading that are not included in the brotherhoods also totaled into huge sums and have become burdensome to the unions in interest. The men employed in the shops and roundhouses have repeatedly urged their fellow-workers in the transportation department to make common cause with them, for the former were able to make no greater headway in conducting costly strikes than were the brotherhoods with their no-strike policies. But up to the time when the crisis was reached in the eight-hour struggle such appeals were in vain. Now, however, the sentiment in favor of closer affiliation and co-operation is gaining ground rapidly, and in all probability the next year or two will find substantial progress made in the breaking down of craft prejudices and a solidifying of common interests to an extent at least of introducing economies in conducting negotiations and perhaps combining to wage the class struggle along industrial lines when other means fail. The Washington conference this week made appreciable progress in that direction.

INTERNATIONAL ECHOES

Prof. Ivonne Bonomi, Minister of Public Works in Italy and a Reformist Socialist, writes in the Christian Science Monitor that the Socialists of his country are strongly opposed to the present war. Prof. Bonomi explains this condition as due in the main to the fact that Italian socialism is chiefly supported by the agricultural classes. In the Paduan plain, for instance, he declares, Socialist rule is "absolute." It tolerates no views but its own. It is against war and whoever upholds it, against those who carry it on and those who attach value to it, and this attitude is similar to that which prevails in many other agricultural districts.

Socialists of Sweden are already beginning to prepare for the great national campaign that is to be fought in the country a year hence. Their splendid increases at the last general election and in municipal contests since has made them enthusiastic and they believe they are approaching the day when they will sweep the country and be called upon to assume the reins of government. It is quite certain that militarism will be the principal issue of the campaign, with the government standing for the present class-rule kind of "preparedness" and the Socialists demanding a democratic leading toward general disarmament. The labor question in various phases will also be before the people, with the Socialists on the aggressive and the old parties on the defensive, of course.

Socialists of Austria held their national congress in Vienna recently, where a long and frequently bitter debate occurred on a resolution to denounce the majority factions in the countries where they supported the government war policies. The motion was defeated. A proposition was finally adopted calling upon the majority and minority factions to take heed of the fact that the present war will solve no problem in which working class interests are involved, and it is urged that nothing should be done to widen the breach, that unity should be striven for and the principles of the International observed, because after the war crises will arise that ought to be met by a united labor movement in every country.

THERE is a great deal of interest—not to say excitement—being manifested in labor circles in the East at the announcement that the great capitalistic organizations are combining to make war on every form of workers' unions. The capitalistic movement has been in progress for some years and culminated in recent conferences in New York between representatives of various associations when it became apparent that

President Wilson had been re-elected and that the railways would attack the Adamson law in the courts. The National Association of Manufacturers, through a subsidiary defense organization, took the initiative in rallying numerous associations that exist in the manufacturing, mining, mercantile, transportation and other industries to the campaign of union-smashing. They are said to represent \$8,000,000,000 of capital, 15,000 capitalists and employ 6,000,000 workers. No quarter is to be shown to the encroachments of organized labor in the matter of establishing the so-called closed shop, enforcing the eight-hour day where it is deemed "impractical" or "unreasonable," wage rates, as well as in gaining further legislation from congress and state legislatures where such measures are considered in conflict with the "best interests" of American business. The politicians at Washington appear to have already taken fright, as some of the leaders announce that no legislation of a contentious nature will be proposed during the winter session of congress—excepting perhaps bills relating to the railway situation, which the statesmen would be glad to sidestep but can't. It is known that an enormous defense fund is being accumulated by the anti-labor combine, which will be used in a manner in which the managers and agents of the N. A. of M. and its affiliated bodies are past grand masters, as was fully shown in the famous Mulhall exposures and in other adventures that have come to light from time to time. It is improbable that labor will tamely surrender because of these latest threats that something is going to happen if further demands are made on the brother capitalists. Labor had no stomach to fight with the blessed (or cursed) with such an important organ, labor must and will continue to struggle to feed its stomach and to remain alive.

INTERNATIONAL ECHOES

Prof. Ivonne Bonomi, Minister of Public Works in Italy and a Reformist Socialist, writes in the Christian Science Monitor that the Socialists of his country are strongly opposed to the present war. Prof. Bonomi explains this condition as due in the main to the fact that Italian socialism is chiefly supported by the agricultural classes. In the Paduan plain, for instance, he declares, Socialist rule is "absolute." It tolerates no views but its own. It is against war and whoever upholds it, against those who carry it on and those who attach value to it, and this attitude is similar to that which prevails in many other agricultural districts.

Socialists of Sweden are already beginning to prepare for the great national campaign that is to be fought in the country a year hence. Their splendid increases at the last general election and in municipal contests since has made them enthusiastic and they believe they are approaching the day when they will sweep the country and be called upon to assume the reins of government. It is quite certain that militarism will be the principal issue of the campaign, with the government standing for the present class-rule kind of "preparedness" and the Socialists demanding a democratic leading toward general disarmament. The labor question in various phases will also be before the people, with the Socialists on the aggressive and the old parties on the defensive, of course.

Socialists of Austria held their national congress in Vienna recently, where a long and frequently bitter debate occurred on a resolution to denounce the majority factions in the countries where they supported the government war policies. The motion was defeated. A proposition was finally adopted calling upon the majority and minority factions to take heed of the fact that the present war will solve no problem in which working class interests are involved, and it is urged that nothing should be done to widen the breach, that unity should be striven for and the principles of the International observed, because after the war crises will arise that ought to be met by a united labor movement in every country.

Is It Coming To This?

From The Milwaukee Leader.

England has adopted the German plan of food control. There is now no intelligent European nation that permits the purchases of private property to starve the people. All food supplies are under government control and prices are fixed by public order.

Thank God for Wilson and the new freedom that we do not have to submit to such restrictions of our personal liberties in the United States. We are free to pay to the private looters all that the traffic will bear. We are free to freeze, starve and pay increased direct and indirect taxes without those benefits which war-swept Europe gives to its people.

Even little Denmark has placed an embargo on many goods that war mongers insisted on exporting despite the shortage of the home supply. But who cares what Denmark does? Denmark is ruled by a king who governs with Socialist and radical support. Free-born American citizens would rather let Morgan & Co. starve them and cheer Doc Wilson for keeping us out of the war than take any advice from a king-ridden country that takes care of its own people and stops the profits of the fatherlandless speculators.

It seems that the only way in which the American people will be able to gain some respite from the curses of peace is to flee to the blessings of war and risk being shot for the sake of getting their stomachs filled. This people have pleaded in vain for election.

with the president and with the old party majority in congress for relief from the price boosting and depletion of the national hoarding by those who feed Mars and starve Uncle Sam. Perhaps they will yet have to thank German submarines for keeping enough supplies in the United States and enough gold out to get at least two square meals a day.

Congress is freed to pass laws for the greater freedom of trusts to gauge us and for the god-given right of citizens' alliances to raid labor union treasuries, but congress does not care to bother with such minor matters as abolishing poverty, unemployment and the high cost of living.

Fortunately there is hope in the fact that President Wilson never has any difficulty about changing his mind. In the regular turn of his routine, we have every right to expect that after being re-elected for starving us by keeping us out of war, he will now earn the laurels by getting us into war and feeding us.

If the recent order of the postmaster general to the employees of the postal department, informing them that they are a part of the regular mobilization machine under the new national defense act, permits any guess concerning the president's plans, we may become beneficiaries of the goulash cannon and bread card sooner than any one anticipated before election.

AMERICAN LABOR'S PUGNACIOUS CHILDHOOD

By FRANK MACDONALD.

In American Labor Year Book 1916.

The Trades Union movement in this country has seemingly been the most chaotic that exists anywhere. At times it has become perilously near, in the earlier days, to reflecting the curious and often wildly absurd forms we see in some American religions, legislation, social experiments and the administration of law.

Lynch law is typically American. It has been used without stint against the unions. Then there is a mass of Federal laws, State laws of 48 different kinds, county laws and municipal ordinances. Somewhere in this mass could be found a law that could be directed against the unions. But slowly out of the disorder and fighting every step of the ground against those in whose favor the laws were framed, the trades' unions have brought the working class, even the unorganized, to a clearer understanding of what is their right and what is necessary to the general social welfare.

They have done it at a cost of suffering, of life and of wealth that is incalculable. In the hundreds of experiments that have been made in organization there was always at least a lesson. Little unions have come forward, attempted certain reforms and have passed away. Great unions, apparently capable of wielding invincible power, have suddenly disintegrated, and the work of organization had to be started again. The American people are the most disorderly, uncertain or purpose and wasteful in the world. The American people include those whose ancestors came here with the first Europeans and those who arrived yesterday. They are of every race and every color and speak dozens of different tongues. But it does not matter what the color or language may be, each is a potential wage worker and it has been the task of the Trades Unions to organize them and drill them into an efficient army of Labor in defense of Labor.

Faces Big Problems.

First of all, the workers had no protection under the law. The little strikes that occurred in the earlier days were not the result of Trades Unionism but were the revolts of a few individuals here and there. The Trades Union is the product of the machine. Whitney's invention of the cotton gin made the textile business possible on a large scale, and necessitated a big supply of labor. Howe's invention of the sewing machine produced a revolution. In 1830 there were only about 20 miles of railroads in this country, and it is during this period that the American Trades Union begins its first halting attempts to protect the wage workers.

The carpenters and joiners and the shipwrights had formed organizations early in the century and in 1833 the carpenters' strike in New York led to the formation of a general trades union. In 1825 the New York women tailors struck, and women have made labor history in the clothing industry since that time. In 1836 the Lowell mill girls went on strike because the cost of board had been increased from \$5 a week to \$5.50 and there had been no increase in wages. These are all forerunning incidents as they show that necessity had aroused the wage workers and they show that the number of wage workers was steadily increasing.

Practically all the unions, with a few striking exceptions, previous to the Civil War were short-lived. But it is during this time that occurred the events that made the great American labor problem of to-day. This is the richest country in the world, and it has the richest and in some respects the poorest people in the world.

Previous to the Civil War the process of monopolizing was in full swing. The land grabbers, the mine and forest grabbers opened the way for the oil field and water power monopolies. So the American labor movement has not only had to struggle against the individual employer but against great aggregations of wealth and the legislative power that wealth gives.

The history of the American labor movement forms a library. Its variations are endless, and its history as told in strikes and lockouts is one long series of outrages and injustice. Trades Unions have not only had to protect themselves in the factories, but they have had to fight for labor and social legislation from the beginning. When this legislation was obtained they had to fight for its enforcement.

Send 5c for a sample copy of The New World, Lincoln Phifer's Paper-Magazine, Girard, Kansas. This is a publication that interprets events by the law of periodicity, and prints each month articles purporting to be the words of J. A. Wayland, Karl Marx, William Shakespeare and others famed in their earthly lives. Debs says of it: "It is one of the most important of recent publications, and will without doubt make for itself a unique place in the field of journalism." It is Socialist in economics.

They have had to fight the law-makers and the judges, the police power and those who usurped police power. Nothing has been won without a bitter struggle and that struggle is only now approaching its climax.

Workers Had No Rights.

In England, which had developed a leisure class that could afford to be philanthropic, labor legislation was due in a great measure to the efforts of those who realized the inhumanity of the conditions under which the workers toiled. America had no leisure class of like impulse, so the workers in the beginning had to do their own fighting.

The wages fight is always the basis of the struggle, for it is an attempt to make income square with the cost of living. Our first unions were formed by little groups of men who demanded some slightly increased share of the wealth they were producing, and they needed that increase in order to live.

At the same time there steadily grew the consciousness that the hours of labor were murderous. The day's work was from sunrise to dark and then an hour or two by candle light, and this six days in the week. The demand for a twelve hour day was greeted with savage opposition as a violation of the rights of property. It was conceded reluctantly by first one and then another employer, and would never have been observed if the fight for an eleven hour day had not immediately been started.

Today, when hours have been reduced, the great Ten Hour movement will seem a curious thing to many. Yet it was one of the hardest of all the fights, and employers and officials alike regarded it as leading to the destruction of American institutions and American liberty. Where the trades are not organized even in our time, and where there is not a combination of the workers of a State for the protection of all the workers, such restrictions of the hours of labor as there are on the statute books are not observed.

The Trades Unions have not only had the task of fighting the battle for fewer hours of work, but they have had to stand on guard and see that the law did not become a dead letter. Much of the wealth made in New England industries, and now possessed by the older and highly repressed families, had its origin in the merciless driving thru many hours of the men, women and children in the factories.

Women And Children.

Northern people view with horror the opposition in the south to the Keating Child labor bill. There is not as much of philanthropy in this as there is the realization that the south, with its child labor, has an advantage not possessed by the north. There is no limit to the number of hours the women and children toil in tenement industry, and if the north did not possess a strong labor movement, no one can believe that there are not employers in plenty who would take advantage of this supposedly cheaper labor so that he could more advantageously compete in the open market with his goods.

Women were forced into the textile mills, the shoe shops, the sweatshops, the department stores, the meat packing establishments, the cigar factories and the foundries. American male workers opposed their entrance into industry, and the early trades unions fought against their joining them. Fortunately the opposition to membership did not prevail, and women workers are a mighty fighting force in the trades union movement.

Trades Unionists in all except a portion of the south, won their demands for a limit to the age at which a child can enter the factory or store, and they also got their demands concerning night labor of women and children. In the large cities the object now is to prevent tenement work and the farming out of work at low wages, to women and children in the country districts as is done in a few industries.

Where the workers do not combine, or where the combination is weak and there is union only under terrible stress, there is a reversion to the old and vicious conditions that prevailed before the unions began to exercise their power. Some American mill and factory towns have tenements as foul as those which existed in the Five Points, or in certain east and west-side districts of New York before the agitation for tenement house regulation was begun. So long as the workers do not form permanent organizations and maintain them these conditions will continue.

Having killed off her able bodied men to satisfy the blood lust of a few munition makers, and set the women of Europe to doing menial tasks, the war lords are now importing orientals to do the work. In the end it will be seen that Europe has been conquered by Asia.

Congress will go on playing the investigation game until it will find that there is nothing left the people, and therefore that there will be no further need of congress.

Colored Cartoons

NEW EDITION—NEW PICTURES

A treat to young and old. A selection of Ryan Walker's best cartoons with the added attraction of colors.

32 pages, (5x13½ inches) of colored comic cartoons. 352 inches of rollicking sure-enough fun.

THESE ARE THE

New Adventures of Henry Dubb

Thousands of copies of Henry Dubb cartoons have been already sold. This is a new edition, with new pictures, in three colors. They make a hit as soon as seen.

They will sell like hot cakes at street meetings, lectures, and to individuals. Every father who wants his son and daughter to comprehend the struggles of the workers will want to give this book of pictures to them. They will bring a smile on the face of any grinch. Even the dullest mind can understand when taken in Walker's "easy-to-take" doses.

Single copies 10c postpaid
25 copies \$2.00 postpaid
100 copies \$6.50 express paid

SOCIALIST PARTY, 803 W. MADISON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

"The Church And Socialism"

(Reprinted from The Churchman) By CHARLES EDWARD RUSSELL

This article is now being issued in a four-page leaflet. You can make use of a big bunch of them.

PRICES: 20 cents per 100; \$1.50 per 1,000.

Order from the NATIONAL OFFICE SOCIALIST PARTY 803 WEST MADISON ST., CHICAGO.

Economic Evolution
By PAUL LA FARGUE.

Certain writers think that the evolution of our society will end in an intensified form of individualism, while we Marxians believe on the contrary that economic development tends inevitably to reintroduce communism, that is to say, the common ownership of the means of production, already partly accomplished, and the common ownership of the means of enjoyment, now monopolized by a class already small in number and growing still smaller from day to day by the very fact of economic development.

Those of our opponents who try to be courteous treat us as utopians, as dreamers; they tell us: "Yes, the Society of your dreams is admirable; it would be a fine thing if equality could rule among men; but you do not understand human nature, which is fundamentally bad. Begin by reforming men before reforming Society."

We are so far from being utopians that, unlike politicians and philanthropists, we do not think man can be changed by moral sermons, religious or secular; to reform him we must transform the environment within which he is evolving; for if man is the creator of his social environment, he is also its creature. Modify the environment, and at one stroke you change the customs, the habits, the passions and the feelings of men. We dreamers are studying the social environment; we are analyzing economic phenomena, tracing them to their origin, following their development, observing their action on the family and the body politic, and we dare draw our own conclusions without fear or prejudice.

Economic phenomena operate not only on social customs, but also on the organization of the family and the state, and even upon the philosophical and religious ideas that haunt the human head. Here is an example which to me seems conclusive. At a certain stage of development, when the means of production are imperfect, all nations must practice slavery. For everybody, even the holiest thinkers, slavery is at that time, a just and natural thing, and for religious people it is divinely ordained. One of the world's greatest thinkers, Aristotle, was forced to believe that nature had created a race of men especially destined for servitude. In this he was in accord with the book of Genesis, which declared that the progeny of Ham was to furnish slaves for the other races descended from Noah. But at least the Greek philosopher had a glimpse of something not seen by the God of the Jews and the Christians, namely, that certain modifications in the tools of production would necessarily involve the suppression of slavery. This remarkable passage is found in his "Politics":

"If each tool without compulsion, of its own power, were to execute its function, as the masterpieces of Dædalus moved of themselves, or as the tripods of Vulcan set themselves spontaneously at their sacred work, if for example the weavers' shuttles moved of themselves, the chief of the workshop would have no further need of helpers, nor the master of slaves." Thus Aristotle, after affirming that slavery was established by nature, had the genius to foresee that by the transformation of the mode of production, its end would come. And it is because this economic transformation has been realized, it is because the machines of the great industry accomplish of themselves, automatically, their sacred work, that we socialists affirm that wage labor, that last and worst form of servile toil, will inevitably disappear.

CORNELIUS LEHANE COMING EAST

Comrade Cornelius Lehane of Ireland, now residing in California after addressing 125 scheduled meetings from New York to San Francisco during the campaign, will on Dec. 11th start out via the southern states for New Orleans where he expects to arrive by Christmas. En route he will speak for various Socialist locals in Arizona, N. Mexico, Texas and Louisiana. Early in the new year he will make for Chicago, speaking on the way at various places in Mississippi, Tennessee, Missouri and Illinois. His memorial address for his old Comrade James Connolly who headed the insurrection in Ireland and killed conscription in that country, has created a profound sensation wherever he has spoken.

Who shall rule? The plutocrats or the people? These questions are answered in "Let the Plutocrats Rule" column which begins in this issue. Look for it, read it, and tell us what you think of it.

NEBRASKA'S VOTE.

Official returns show that 7,141 votes were cast for Benson in Nebraska compared to 10,185 in 1912, a falling off of 3,044 votes. Comrade F. M. Key, at Burwell, was elected sheriff of Garfield county. The Socialist candidate for U. S. senator received 7,425 votes, while the candidate for superintendent of school received 10,577 votes, more than that for the national ticket four years ago. The Delaware vote this year was 490, in 1912, 556. The Indiana vote was 21,855 this year compared to 36,931 in 1912.

HAVE YOU VOTED for capitalism? Then, you should read "Let the Plutocrats Rule" column in The American Socialist every week. It will show you what you voted for. The series begins this week.

If "the late" Mr. Hughes had made his campaign on the platform of an embargo on the exportation of food products instead of a protective tariff to limit imports, he might have won out. And then again he might not.

The Socialist candidates are usually first in the field. They thus have a chance to get in some good licks while the old party aspirants are fighting each other in primaries and conventions.

Optimism fits into Socialism like a peanut into its shell. If we were not optimists we would not be Socialists—and how any worker who is not a Socialist can be an optimist is more than we can figure out.

The leaflet campaign is to be continued. Just another sign that we begin one campaign before the votes of the last one are counted. This is literally true, for the returns from which an accurate total of our 1916 vote are not yet at hand.

We Socialists are already giving the world an example of how a united class, regardless of individual characteristics and convictions, can work together in a common interest of brotherhood and benefit for all. Native Americans and foreign born citizens, Jews or Christians and atheists, wetts and dries,—all are working with solidarity and harmony which the old parties envy. Let it be the best possible example, a convincing disproof of the assertion that mankind has not reached a sufficiently high state of civilization to insure the success of a co-operative commonwealth.

A certain Socialist paper is running a column to which readers contribute statements of what advantages are derived NOW from being Socialists. Our contribution would be that we would hate like thunder to have to vote a ticket without knowing why we did so, which would be the case if we cast a ballot for one of the old parties.

"Emperor William's Christmas gift to Pope Benedict will be a Bible magnificently bound and illuminated." —News Item. No doubt it will be inscribed "With best wishes from Wilhelm, Gott und Company."

GLIMPSES OF HOPE.

Perhaps we could find some glimpses of a silver lining in our cloud were we to look for it diligently. It is true we did not elect as many congressmen as we hoped to send to Washington but we may have laid some foundations that will be building spots for the future. We faced tremendous odds in the presidential campaign and at that we accounted ourselves with some credit. We made the enemy run his best in several districts. The next congressional elections will be in off years. Oklahoma socialists and Terre Haute party members as well as those persistent and every growing movements in the two Milwaukee districts may find the road to Washington open in the off year. We ought to be making twenty instead of five campaigns two years from now.

DYING A NATURAL DEATH.

The Mexican flury is just naturally petering out. Gen. Pershing is supposed to be somewhere in the land of cactus but if you were to ask the average citizen whether the expedition had been withdrawn or was still pursuing Villa he would probably yawn and ask the price of fresh storage eggs in your neighborhood as a reply. The great Mexican issue is dead. Tho in saying that we may speak ill-advisedly, not having seen one of Mr. Hearst's papers for a week.

Will You Be In Next Year's Group Of Graduates?

HERE ARE TWO CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS OF GRADUATING STUDENTS OF THE

RAND SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

(NEW YORK)

In 1911 the first Full Time Resident Student Class was organized with about six students. Each succeeding year has seen the Full Time Class grow until today the School's capacity is taxed and the Alumnae are seriously considering the raising of a fund to build a large modern University Building for the School.

Not only have the number of students increased from year to year, but the curriculum of studies today embraces a larger field than ever before.



1912—1913 CLASS. The second Full Time Class of the School.

Among those in this group are Stephen J. Mahoney, of Buffalo, N. Y., recent Socialist candidate for Lieutenant Governor; James J. Kelly, sepaquer and organizer in New England States; Walter J. Cook, State Organizer in N. Carolina, S. Carolina and Georgia; D. Pollock, Organizer Metal Polishers' Union; John P. Burke, former State Secretary of the Party in New Hampshire and now an official of the Pulp Workers Union; Sigmund Haiman, official Int. Ladies Garment Workers Union; Sadie Oxhandler, Book-keeper The Rand School, and Max Sherover, who is now on the staff of The American Socialist.



1915—1916 CLASS.

Man in upper left row is a Chinese Revolutionist and is now a member of Parliament in the Chinese Republic. The first man in the second left row is Algernoon Lee, Educational Director of the Rand School and on the opposite end of the second row is Bertha M. Mailly, Executive Secretary of the Rand School of Social Science.

The Successful Candidates in The American Socialist Scholarship Contest Will Enter The Rand School in the Fall of 1917. Are You Going to be One of Them. Say "Yes" and Fill in the Coupon Below.

How To Earn A Scholarship

In all The American Socialist will award FIVE SCHOLARSHIPS.

They are to be earned as follows: By securing subscriptions for The American Socialist.

Each winning candidate for a scholarship must attain a minimum of 2,000 points.

Each 25c subscription will count as one point.

Each 50c subscription will count as two points.

A club of four 40 weeks subscribers at 25c will count as four points.

In other words, in sending in subscriptions or in buying sub cards the candidate for a scholarship, will be credited with one point for every 25c sent in.

The standing of the candidates will be published weekly in The American Socialist.

Clip This Coupon

SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST DEPARTMENT,
THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST,
803 WEST MADISON STREET,
CHICAGO, ILL.

Dear Comrade: Please enter my name in the race for a Rand School of Social Science Scholarship. I am going in to win.

Name.....

Street Address.....

City..... County..... State.....

Age..... Sex..... Previous education.....

As you will note from their ad. in another column of this paper they are manufacturing something almost every comrade uses, overalls and coats. We do not doubt that every one of us will patronize our own comrades instead of feeding our enemies. We wish them the greatest success.

The real victor is Roosevelt. He eliminated the Progressive Party, side-tracked the "strong man" of the Ra-

publican party, Hughes, while re-instating himself in the party, ready to run in 1920. Teeth are always on hand.

Roosevelt is "ashamed of the American electorate." So are we. But what can you expect from a public that lets itself be so completely buncoed for fifteen years by such a fakir as Theodore?

My five-year-old nephew told me he was going to vote for Hughes because "he liked his little elephant buttons." Isn't that as good a reason as any voter could give for supporting him?

We are just mean enough to hope that every near-Socialist who voted for Wilson will be found in the inevitable army of the unemployed which will be mobilized at the end of the European War.

CUT OUT THE "MOVIES"

The coal barons in the vicinity of Princeton, Ind., have an easy way of settling the high price question, at least as far as the coal situation is concerned. One of Princeton's coal barons told a committee of the Princeton city council that:

"If the people of Princeton spent less money going to the picture shows they would have more money to buy coal."

"The Democrat", one of Princeton's capitalist publications, asks, "Why this could be used as an argument in favor of advancing the price of fuel to hitherto unknown prices, he did not state."

The Princetonites are especially sore because coal consumers in other mining towns in the vicinity are receiving their fuel much cheaper. The Princeton coal barons must have thrown overboard all semblance of local patriotism in their desire for profits.

When they urge the Princeton coal consumers to cut out the "movies", they but echo the advice of the profiteers of other cities. The war profiteers of Milwaukee, for instance, advised the workers of that city not only to stop going to the "movies" but to live on "sauerkraut and sausages" instead of having something more palatable occasionally. The workers are not going to pay any attention to the advice of their exploiters. They are going to demand that the exploiters get off their backs. When the profit system has been wiped out and the workers get what they produce, then they will not only attend the "movies" but be in a position to take in real shows. And they will be too master class to chide them about it.

THE OKLAHOMA CAMPAIGN.

Shakespeare, Bill Nye or somebody else once said in a romantic moment, "Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all." We might apply this saying, altered to fit the occasion, to the Oklahoma campaign. Altho results did not come up to expectations the socialists of the breezy southwestern state have the satisfaction of knowing that they put up a campaign. They let the enemy know they were in the race every minute of the time. That they could not capture the state in one campaign is not surprising, but they made socialism a live issue and that itself was worth while. If we had about forty eight states like Oklahoma we would jar this country from Wall street to the turrets of the Santa Diego fair.

HIS WHISKERS WILL FADE.

Some people who are still wearing tin elephants in their button holes may not believe it but when the history of this country is written Debs will be a larger figure than Hughes.

WILSON UP TO EXPECTATIONS.

Laboring men who voted for what they didn't want when they cast their ballot for Wilson are liable to get it sooner than they had expected. Word comes that the American Federation of Labor is greatly agitated because Wilson is proposing the Canadian method of arbitration for railroad men. This is compulsory arbitration before a tribunal, which seems to it that the workmen get the worst of it. Under this law strikes are outlawed and the workers with a grievance are put to sleep by arbitration. That is what might have been expected of Wilson the radical. No doubt the president was sincere in advocating the Adamson law, particularly as he was a candidate for reelection, but we must not forget that Wilson is a thoroughgoing capitalist and that rather than see anything so mussy as a strike he would advocate arbitration of most any kind.

According to the reports just received from National Committeeman Franklin Pimbley, of Florida, the Socialist vote this year showed an increase of 3,008 over four years ago, as follows: 1916, Benson, 7,814; 1912, Debs, 4,806.

We made a slight gain in Rhode Island, the vote this year for Benson being 2,433 as compared to 2,049 votes for Debs in 1912.

How To Become Naturalized.

THE National Office publishes the best booklet of information on Naturalization. You need it to instruct that friend or relation who is about to undergo the examination. Price only 10 cents.—Socialist Party, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago.

PAT QUINLAN FREE AT LAST

At last poor Pat Quinlan has been released. But not until the prison dogs that serve the masters had seen that he had tuberculosis. The judges who sent him up, when he is innocent, are murderers.

Another attempt has been made to assassinate Rakowsky, the recognized leader of the organized workers and Socialists of Roumania. This is the third attempt made on his life, the two previous assaults having occurred during 1907, when the Roumanian peasants revolted and defended their cause in Bukarest and other places. In each instance the militarists made the attacks. A later report says that Rakowsky has been thrown into prison to "insure" his safety.

A FOREIGNERS VIEW OF OUR OWN H. C. OF L.

"In Australia we believe that a government which cannot control prices for the benefit of the people is not living up to its obligations as a democracy."

These are the words of Patrick E. Quinn, government commissioner for New South Wales, in an address in this country. This utterance is especially timely when prices of all staple food products have soared to unprecedented figures and the United States government is, or pretends to be, unable to impose a limit.

Three causes are generally cited for the present soaring of prices—crop shortage, increased exports, and speculation. Of these the first is more apparent than real. No one claims that there is any shortage in the egg, milk, butter, meat and coal "crops." Moreover it is probable that enough staples of all kinds were produced this year in this country to supply all our needs. With regulation of exports and speculation, it seems that Congress could take immediate remedial action if so disposed. What Australia has done in similar conditions as outlined by Mr. Quinn is encouraging.

"With speculators holding a gun to the heads of the American people, your situation seems to demand drastic measures," said the Australian expert. "The storing of eggs, butter, meat, poultry and like foodstuffs to boost prices is only less criminal than the destruction of food to keep the market up, such as I have seen in San Francisco."

"I don't want to appear nosy about the affairs of a country whose guest I am, but when I see high prices in the United States, where there is no regulation, and compare it with the reasonable prices obtaining in my own country of New South Wales, where food prices are controlled by the government, it is a strong temptation to say: 'Go thou and do likewise'."

"Thanks to our control system housewives in Sidney and other large cities pay about 25 cents a dozen for the best eggs. Can you imagine that for the best eggs here? No, but there is no legitimate reason why it shouldn't be."

"Your American egg barons would like to hit me with some of their storage goods for saying it, no doubt, but the reason eggs are not 25 cents here is that the speculators are holding a pistol to the consumer's head. There is plenty of food of all kinds in the United States. The speculators have got dealers and consumers by the throat. They have raised the false cry of heavy exports on account of the war and then have boosted prices on that artificial theory. This is a situation which could not exist in New South Wales."

"Can you imagine a two-pound loaf of bread selling in the United States for 7 cents? I think not. Yet that is what the Australian state bakeries do. 'Take a spool of common thread. In Australia the housewife gets 3,000 yards for a nickel. The American housewife gets 1,000. This is all the more remarkable when you consider that all our cotton must be shipped from England or America as we grow none there."

"Of course many of our dealers chafe under the fair-price system, just as they would in the United States, but that doesn't stop regulation. Here, it seems to me, they are permitted to let out the issue."

There's a reason for Socialism. Ask any Socialist; he knows.

Send five cents for a sample copy of The New World, Lincoln Phifer's Paper-Magazine, Girard, Kansas. Debs says in the Rip Saw: "It is a live and ambitious publication and will make a place for itself in the modern struggle for democracy and freedom. It is one of the most unique and original publications that come to our table."

Protect Your Membership Card!

How Does Your Little Old Red Card Look? Is it soiled and worn Shabby, broken and torn Or is it proudly reposing Neatly and Cleanly Your membership disclosing?

We have a limited supply of Red Leather membership card holders with gold lettering on outside cover. This case will preserve your card for years and can be carried in your pocket conveniently.

Price 25c, prepaid.

Protect Your Red Card and Order a Leather Card Case Today. Suitable for Gifts to Socialists.

Book Department
National Office, Soc. Party
803 West Madison Street
Chicago, Ill.

ARE YOU ON TO TRICKS OF THE CAPITALIST PRESS?

Do You Know the Methods They Employ in

POISONING NEWS?

Do You Know How They Lie About You and Your Class?

FAKES IN JOURNALISM

By Max Sherover.

Conclusively Shows You How the Press Adulterates, Colors and Suppresses OUR NEWS.

This pamphlet has gone thru three editions and 25,000 copies have been sold. It is a reference book that no Socialist should be without. It is in reality a dictionary of fakes of the press. It is instructive and amusing, written in a simple, breezy style. This book heretofore sold at 25c per copy. The Price Now is

TEN CENTS PER COPY

12 copies for \$1.00 postpaid 50 copies for \$3.50 postpaid
100 copies for \$6.00 postpaid

Send Orders to

BOOK DEPARTMENT

NATIONAL OFFICE SOCIALIST PARTY
803 West Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.